

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. **(Original)** An adiponectin expression-inducing agent, which comprises the protein of (1) or (2): (1) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; or (2) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence with one or more amino acid deletions, substitutions, additions, or insertions in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
2. **(Original)** An adiponectin expression-inducing agent, which comprises the DNA of (1) or (2), or a vector carrying said DNA: (1) a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; or (2) a DNA that hybridizes under stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
3. **(Original)** A preventive or therapeutic pharmaceutical composition for a metabolic disease or heart disease, wherein the composition comprises the adiponectin expression-inducing agent of claim 1 or 2 as an active ingredient.
4. **(Original)** A cell for screening for an adiponectin expression-inducing substance, wherein the cell carries a reporter gene that is quipped with at least an enhancer element comprising: (1) a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5; or (2) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence with one or more nucleotide deletions, additions, substitutions, or insertions in the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.
5. **(Original)** The cell of claim 4, which further carries a KLF9-encoding DNA.
6. **(Original)** The cell of claim 4 or 5, which is an adipocyte.
7. **(Original)** The cell of claim 4 or 5, which is a hypertrophic adipocyte.

8. **(Original)** A method of screening for an adiponectin expression-inducing substance, wherein the method comprises the steps of: (1) reacting the cell of claim 4 with a test substance; (2) detecting expression of a reporter gene; and (3) selecting a test substance that yields a higher reporter gene expression in the cell reacted with the test substance than in the cell that has not reacted with the test substance.
9. **(Original)** A method of screening for a substance that can induce adiponectin expression, wherein the method comprises the steps of: (1) reacting the cell of claim 5 with a test substance; (2) detecting expression of a reporter gene; and (3) selecting a test substance that yields a higher reporter gene expression in the cell treated with the test substance than in the cell that has not reacted with the test substance.
10. **(Original)** A method of screening for a preventive or therapeutic pharmaceutical agent for obesity or an obesity-related disease, wherein the method comprises the steps of: (1) reacting the cell of claim 4 with a test substance; (2) detecting expression of a reporter gene; and (3) selecting a test substance that yields a higher reporter gene expression in the cell reacted with the test substance than in the cell that has not reacted with the test substance.
11. **(Original)** A method of screening for a preventive or therapeutic pharmaceutical agent for obesity or an obesity-related disease, wherein the method comprises the steps of: (1) reacting the cell of claim 5 with a test substance; (2) detecting expression of a reporter gene; and (3) selecting a test substance that yields a higher reporter gene expression in the cell reacted with the test substance than in the cell that has not reacted with the test substance.
12. **(New)** A method for inducing expression of adiponectin comprising administering the adiponectin expression-inducing agent of claim 2.
13. **(New)** A method for treating or preventing a metabolic disease or heart disease comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition that comprises the adiponectin expression-inducing agent of claim 2 as an active ingredient.